

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A direct thermal printer, comprising:
 - a direct thermal print head comprising an array of thermal energy sources directly radiantly coupled to a thermal print medium;
 - a thermal print medium drive mechanism holding the thermal print medium in noncontacting proximity to the direct thermal print head without a thermal energy modulator interposed between the thermal print medium and the direct thermal print head;

and

 - a controller coupled to the direct thermal print head and the thermal print medium drive mechanism, wherein the output power of the thermal energy sources are individually controllable by the controller.
2. (Previously presented) The direct thermal printer of claim 1, wherein the thermal energy sources are lasers.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously presented) The direct thermal printer of claim 1 is wherein the thermal energy sources are heater elements.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) The direct thermal printer of claim 1 is wherein the thermal energy sources are radiant light devices.

7. to 11. (Canceled)